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LB 1349

the fund for that purpose. Today the revenue amounts to about \$2.6 million a year. Use of the funds during that time was subject to review and approval by the Information Resources Cabinet, which was a predecessor to the Information Technology Commission. The original technology act was scheduled to sunset June 30, 2001, and the cigarette tax revenues, this 2 cents, was to revert to the Building Renewal Allocation Fund. LB 1349 would delete that sunset provision, it would provide a source of funding and provide certain responsibilities for the NITC. Subject to the legislative appropriations process, NITC would review and approve project plans and specifications to be sure that the objectives and the time frame and budget are consistent with the original proposal. The NITC and the Chief Information Officer would monitor the status of the projects funded through this act. To summarize some of the key provisions of the bill, as I mentioned, this would extend the Information Technology Infrastructure Act indefinitely. It would allow the Legislature to designate technology projects for funding from the IT Infrastructure Fund. It would require the NITC to review and approve detailed project plans for major enterprise projects prior to expenditure of funds. I think that a good characterization of this process is to provide a circuit breaker function with regard to technology projects, to assure that the objectives and the budget and time frame of a project are consistent with the proposal authorized by the Legislature. This bill would require project status reporting by the Chief Information Officer to the Legislature, pursuant to 86-1510, subsection (9). It would continue this use of the cigarette tax, 2 cents revenue, beyond June 30, 2001 for this purpose, and it would transfer the unexpended balance of the Century Date Fund over to this Infrastructure Fund. This would allow multiyear commitments for the larger technology projects, and it also provides language allowing for other funding sources for this fund, which could include grants or appropriations or gifts. Let me say that as we were debating the previous bill and as we've all expressed our frustrations and concerns about computer projects here in the past, including the more recent CHARTS fiasco, if I could call it that, that it occurs to me that LB 1349 is a very timely and appropriate mechanism for us to monitor and keep track of larger technology projects that we're going to be faced with in this state. DAS and the need for computer revamping and updating there is a perfect example